

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Joyce Ober, Sulfur Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7717, Fax: (703) 648-7722
E-mail: jober@usgs.gov

Maria Arguelles (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7990
Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SULFUR IN FEBRUARY 2002

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 623,000 metric tons, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). February production was 11% lower than January 2002 and the same as in February 2001. Shipments were 11% lower than those of January 2002. Ending stocks for February 2002 were 228,000 tons.

Import and export data for February 2002 were not available at the time of publication and will be published in the Sulfur in March 2002 Mineral Industry Surveys along with apparent consumption. Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2002 were 87,000 tons; exports were 26,000 tons. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2002 were 141,000 tons; exports were 13,000 tons.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information, data collected and published by the Alberta (Canada) Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) in its monthly production report, and information from other published sources. The EUB report is particularly valuable because the majority of Canadian sulfur is produced in that Province, and most of the Canadian sulfur that enters the United States comes from Alberta. When the data problems are solved, the USGS will resume using Census data exclusively.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources
	Petroleum 2/	Natural gas	Total	
2001:				
January-December	6,460	1,790	8,240	8,230
January-February	1,010 r/	308 r/	1,320 r/	1,300 r/
February	471	152	623	615
March	504	162	666	688
April	538	151	689	660
May	555	151	705	707
June	541	118	658	658
July	539	142	681	675
August	550	158	708	736
September	512	146	658	648
October	554	149	703	702
November	573	146	719	728
December	580	156	736	721
2002:				
January	543	155	698	698 r/
February	494 p/	130 p/	623 p/	618 p/
Total	1,040	284	1,320	1,320

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR 1/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Total, all countries 2/	
	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/
2001:						
January	117 r/	1,070	57	2,510	185 r/	4,470
February	140	630	19	770	178	2,340
March	176 r/	1,010	38	1,470	231 r/	3,190
April	174 r/	1,480	38	1,240	230 r/	3,400
May	116 r/	110	38	887	176 r/	2,680
June	94 r/	542	36	508	166 r/	1,380
July	145 r/	126	20	166	178 r/	396
August	14	156	21	119	50 r/	885
September	48 r/	195	2	98	55 r/	628
October	34 r/	556	17	196	51 r/	767
November	99 r/	812	29	164	133 r/	1,270
December	49 r/	378	44	256	93 r/	648
Total	1,210 r/	7,060	359	8,400	1,730 r/	22,100
2002:						
January	50 e/	501	30	408	87 e/	1,600

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include other countries not listed.

3/ Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID 1/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Europe			Total, all countries 2/		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value 3/	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value 3/	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value 3/
2001:									
January	34	11	1,180	22	7	95	142	46	3,670
February	62	20	1,280	10	3	48	124	41	2,630
March	40	13	1,290	6	2	36	116	38	2,210
April	42	14	1,120	25	8	90	124	41	2,290
May	39	13	1,140	15	5	104	134	44	2,930
June	49	16	1,320	(4/)	(4/)	7	109	36	2,160
July	32	11	1,000	12	4	67	82	25	1,810
August	20	7	822	11	3	61	100	33	4,590
September	46	15	1,450	10	3	36	106	34	2,570
October	43	14	1,420	31	10	402	124	41	6,040
November	62	20	1,560	48	16	873	150	49	4,950
December	54	17	1,590	20	6	255	104	34	3,780
Total	523	171	15,200	210	67	2,070	1,420	462	39,600
2002:									
January	48	16	1,600	33	11	237	141	46	4,220

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include other countries not listed.

3/ Declared customs valuation.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID 1/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value 2/	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value 2/
2001:					
January	70	3,480	24	8	1,760
February	46	9,970	39	13	1,960
March	74	3,990	13	4	1,370
April	38	2,730	20	6	1,890
May	106	4,780	14	5	1,190
June	35	3,750	11	4	802
July	67	3,020	16	5	1,390
August	61	4,270	17	6	1,240
September	19	2,050	14	5	1,060
October	74	4,260	17	6	1,440
November	45	3,800	14	5	1,020
December	41	2,690	9	3	822
Total	676	48,800	208	70	15,900
2002:					
January	26	2,990	13	4	1,010

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources 2/	Imports	Consumption
2001:			
January	618	185 r/	803 r/
February	569	178	747
March	614	231 r/	845 r/
April	623	230 r/	853 r/
May	601	176 r/	777 r/
June	623	166 r/	789 r/
July	608	178 r/	786 r/
August	675	50 r/	725 r/
September	629	55 r/	684 r/
October	628	51 r/	679 r/
November	683	133 r/	816 r/
December	680	93 r/	773 r/
Total	7,550	1,730 r/	9,280 r/
2002:			
January	672	87 e/	759

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	February 2002 p/		January 2002 p/		Total 2002 2/		Year to date 2001 2/	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	20	20	22	23	42	42	38	40 r/
Natural gas	2	2	3	3	5	5	7	7
Total	22	22	25	26	47	48	45	47
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	52	52	68	69	120	120	146 r/	149 r/
Natural gas	4	4	5	5	9	9	9	9
Total	56	56	73	73	129	129	156 r/	158 r/
PAD 3: 3/								
Petroleum and coke	346	346	354	351 r/	700	697	622 r/	612 r/
Natural gas	42	41	61	63	102	104	114	113
Total	388	388	415	414 r/	803	801	735 r/	725 r/
PAD 4 and 5: 4/								
Petroleum and coke	76	78	98	98	174	175	204 r/	200 r/
Natural gas	81	75	86	87 r/	167	162	179 r/	174 r/
California	61	62	75	75	136	138	170 r/	164 r/
Total	157	153	185	185 r/	341	337	382 r/	373 r/
Grand total	623	618	698	698 r/	1,320	1,320	1,320 r/	1,300 r/

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include revisions to prior months.

3/ Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

4/ Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS 1/

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis] and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2002			2001
	February	January	Year to date	total
Production	8.12 p/	8.22	8.17	8.24
Shipments	8.06 p/	8.22 r/	8.14	8.23
Exports of sulfur	NA	0.31	0.31	0.70
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	NA	0.59	0.59	1.21 r/
Mexico	NA	0.35	0.35	0.36
Total 2/	NA	1.02	1.02	1.73 r/
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	NA	0.15	0.15	0.21
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	NA	0.57	0.57	1.21 r/
Europe	NA	0.39	0.39	0.36 r/
Total 2/	NA	1.66	1.66	1.73 r/
Consumption: 3/				
Domestic sources	NA	7.91	7.91	7.55
Imports	NA	1.02	1.02	1.73 r/
Total	NA	8.94	8.94	9.28 r/
Sulfur export values 4/	NA	\$115	\$115	\$72
Sulfur import values: 4/				
Canada	NA	\$10	\$10	\$6 r/
Mexico	NA	\$14	\$14	\$23
Average	NA	\$18	\$18	\$13 r/
H ₂ SO ₄ export values 4/	NA	\$78	\$78	\$77
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: 4/				
Canada	NA	\$33	\$33	\$29
Europe	NA	\$7	\$7	\$10
Average	NA	\$30	\$30	\$28

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes other countries not listed.

3/ Because February trade data were not available, February consumption was not determined.

4/ Average value per ton for most recent data available.